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**Hooks for an Informative Paper**

What is a hook?

* A hook is **the first sentence in your paper**.
* It should **grab the attention** of your reader.

1st Technique: Use a Quote

* Use a **well-worded quote about your subject** to get your audience’s attention and to **establish credibility** (reliability).
* If you were writing a paper about uniforms in school, you might use the following as your hook:
  + “They feel like they belong to something meaningful, something different [....] I think it helps,” says Mark Favale, a physics teacher at Hartford High School's Nursing Academy, of the newly implemented, district-wide uniform policy (Fox).
  + "Uniforms, in my opinion, are a good idea. They are very professional looking, they are cheaper than buying clothes every week and they show school spirit. This also means we don't have to worry much about how we look,” says Luis Rodarte a Hoover Middle School student.

2nd Technique: Use a Question

* **Asking your readers to think about the topic** is a great way to get them ready to hear more.
* Often starts with one of the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Have you ever…? * Do you…? * How would you…? | * Why would you…? * Would you…? * How would you feel if…? | * Can you…? * What do you…? * Have you ever wondered…? |

* If you were writing a paper about uniforms in school, you might use the following as your hook:
  + Have you ever wondered why many schools throughout the United States implement a school-wide uniform policy?
  + How would you feel if you never had to worry about picking out your outfit for work again?

3rd Technique: Use a Fact or Statistic

* A **surprising fact** can grab your audience's attention, while showing **why your topic is important**.
* If you were writing a paper about uniforms in school, you might use one of the following as your fact/statistic hook:
  + According to a study done by the University of Nevada, school uniforms dramatically decrease bullying in public schools.
  + According to a recent survey, 49 % of schools in the United States have a formal dress code or uniform policy in place, or have plans to implement one in the near future (Tucker).

Introductions for an Informative Paper

What should be included in an introduction?

1. Your hook, or attention grabber (1 sentence)
2. A topic sentence for each of your body paragraphs (3-4 sentences)
3. Your thesis statement

An example:

According to a recent survey, 49 % of schools in the United States have a formal dress code or uniform policy in place, or have plans to implement one in the near future (Tucker). Dress codes or uniforms decrease bullying in schools since everyone is dressed the same. Also, students who wear uniforms have more time to worry about their studies. Lastly, students in schools with a uniform policy report feeling more connected to their school. School uniforms improve student success because they decrease incidents of bullying, increase the amount of time students spend studying and boost students’ sense of belonging to a school.

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Independent Practice

**Section 1:**

**Directions:** Read each of the following hooks and identify what type it is by writing **question**, **quote** or **fact/statistic**.

1. How would you feel if the one kid you ever bullied in your life turned out to be the only doctor in the world who could save you later in life? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to a study done by the National Center for Education Statistics, almost a third of students in the United States reported being bullied at school in 2007. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. “Today, bullying doesn’t even end at the school bell—it can follow our children from the hallways to their cell phones to their computer screens," said Obama at a conference on bullying in 2011 (Lee). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you ever witnessed somebody being bullied, but didn’t do anything because you yourself were afraid you would be the next victim? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. According to the New York Times article "Effects of Bullying Last Into Adulthood" victims of bullying are more likely to experience negative psychological effects, like anxiety and depression disorders, decades later. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. “Bullying builds character like nuclear waste creates superheroes. It's a rare occurrence and often does much more damage than endowment,” said author Zack W. Van to his young readers. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2:**

**Directions:** In order to have the best hook for your definition essay, write one of each type of hook on the lines below. Remember that the hook must not only connect to your topic of heroism, but should also relate to the specific points you will be focusing on in your paper. You may use quotes from your SpringBoard books (**put these away neatly if you do use them**). For a fact/statistic, you will need to do research online, so simply think about what statistic/fact you will look up. Bring in your fact/statistic tomorrow.

**-Quote: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**-Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**-Fact/Statistic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Section 3:**

**Directions:** Use the following template to write your introduction for your definition essay.

Hook: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Topic Sentence for Paragraph 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Topic Sentence for Paragraph 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Topic Sentence for Paragraph 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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